

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3162
INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 00671

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, SP, NG
SUBJECT: VISIT TO SPAIN OF NIGER FOREIGN MINISTER

1. THE VISIT TO SPAIN JANUARY 16-18 OF NIGER FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE CONCENTRATED MOSTLY ON THE VISITOR'S INTEREST IN "COOPERATION", WHICH TRANSLATED ESSENTIALLY AS ASSISTANCE, EMBASSY OFFICER WAS TOLD BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NEW CHIEF FOR SUBSAHARA AFRICA AND CONTINENTAL ASIA (URIARTE). THE VISIT GREW OUT OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN DJERMAKOYE AND SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA IN DAKAR, URIARTE ADDED, AND IF THE GOS WAS A BIT SURPRISED TO SEE DJERMAKOYE TAKE UP OREJA'S INVITATION, IT WAS NO LESS PLEASED TO SEE HIM HERE.

2. DJERMAKOYE EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS IMPRESSED WITH SPANISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND ALONG WITH ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TEACHERS, SHOWED INTEREST IN THE POSSIBILITY OF SPANISH INVESTMENT IN NIGER. URIARTE INDICATED THAT FROM THE SPANISH POINT OF VIEW THE PROSPECTS WERE NOT GREAT, BUT THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER POSSIBILITIES WITH A POSITIVE SPIRIT. URIARTE ALSO COMMENTED ON NIGER AS
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A RELATIVELY "UNCOMPLICATED" SOURCE OF URANIUM.

3. AT THE END OF HIS OFFICIAL VISIT, DJERMAKOYE LEFT MADRID FOR A "PRIVATE" TRIP TO THE CANARY ISLANDS. ACCORDING TO URIARTE'S PREDECESSOR (CASSINELLO), THE GOS PUT HIM UP TO THE TRIP AS PART OF ITS CONTINUING EFFORT TO SHOW AFRICAN OFFICIALS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE

CANARIES ARE ETHNICALLY AND CULTURALLY SPANISH, NOT
AFRICAN, AND THAT EFFORTS FROM WITHIN THE OAU TO LABEL
THE CANARIES A CASE OF AFRICAN COLONIZATION ARE
WITHOUT FOUNDATION. STABLER

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